

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE AGENCIES TO MAKE "KIDS —
NEW MEXICO'S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY".

WHEREAS, children are the most precious resource and
represent the future of the state; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico continues to be in the bottom tier
of states on several national statistics that rate state
performance on child welfare issues, including high rates of
teen pregnancy, child mortality and morbidity, children living
in poverty and school dropouts; and

WHEREAS, state and local policymakers need to continue
to redouble their efforts toward improving New Mexico's
ranking among the states in child welfare and to do more to
raise the consciousness of New Mexico citizens as to the
plight of children in the state; and

WHEREAS, policymakers should be constantly aware of how
their decisions affect New Mexico children and families; and

WHEREAS, every department of state government has a
major contribution to make toward the improvement of
children's lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature and the executive
dedicate themselves to working together to ensure that state
policies consider the effect on New Mexico's families and

children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor request his cabinet to make "Kids – New Mexico's Number One Priority" in 2004 and focus on ways to improve the lives of New Mexico's children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the governor.